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SUBJECT: MEXICAN PRESS REACTION TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON LOS MATTERS  
REF: STATE 84997

MEXICO (REST)

1. MEXICAN PRESS REACTION TO SECRETARY'S APRIL 8 SPEECH ON LOS MATTERS HAS BEEN CRITICAL AND SPARSE. EXCELSIOR'S EDITORIAL APRIL 10 CALLED THE SPEECH A "VIRTUAL ULTIMATUM" AND ASSERTED THAT IT WAS AN EFFORT TO RETURN TO AN ERA WHERE FORCE RATHER THAN LAW PREVAILED.

2. THE ONLY OTHER NOTEWORTHY REACTION IS A COLUMN BY CARLOS ROJAS JUANCO IN EL NACIONAL APRIL 13 ENTITLED "RESTORATION OF THE RIGHT OF OCCUPATION AND CONQUEST". ROJAS DISPARAGES THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL THAT SEABED SITES FOR EXPLORATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ZONE BE DIVIDED SO THAT PRIVATE CONTRACTORS AND AN INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY (ON BEHALF OF LDCS) EACH GET SITES OF EQUAL WEALTH AS "VERY DIFFICULT TO TAKE SERIOUSLY". HE GOES ON TO NOTE THAT THE COMPETITION FOR COLONICAL DOMINIONS IN THE PAST RESULTED IN NUMEROUS BLOODY WARS AND WARNED THAT THIS "SHOULD NOT BE REPEATED IN A RACE FOR DOMINATION OF THE SEABEDS." (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ROJAS' COLUMN APPEARS REGULARLY IN SEMI-OFFICIAL EL NACIONAL, WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT HE IS PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO GOM THINKING, SINCE HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PARTIDO POPULAR SOCIALISTA AND HAS LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH COMMUNISTS AND EXTREME LEFTISTS, HE SHOULD PROBABLY NOT BE CONSIDERED A GOM SPOKESMAN.) THOMPSON

State Dept. review completed

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